

COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS

<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/comio/index.htm>

MINUTES

March 19, 2008

This meeting was held in conjunction with the California Forensic Mental Health Association's annual conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel Conference Center in Seaside.

In Attendance:

Council Members

James E. Tilton, Undersecretary, CDCR (Chairperson)
Stephen W. Mayberg, Director, Department of Mental Health (Vice-Chairperson)
Joel Fay, PsyD, Officer, San Rafael Police Department
Duane E. McWaine, M.D., Medical Director, DHCMHC, Los Angeles
David Meyer, J.D., USC Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science
Wendy Lindley, Judge, Orange County Superior Court
Jo Robinson, M.F.T., Assistant Director, San Francisco Jail Psychiatric Services
Dave Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Retired), Humboldt County
Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Assistant Sheriff, Orange County Sheriff

Support Staff

Allan Lammers, Executive Officer

Interested Parties

Stephen V. Manley, Judge, Superior Court of California, Santa Clara County
Kathryn Jett, CDCR, Under-Secretary
Bobby Haase, CDCR, Special Assistant
Curtis J. Hill, San Benito, Sheriff
Karen Moen, Collaborative Justice Project, Administrative Office of the Courts
Lori Rifkin, Attorney, Rosen, Bien, and Galvan
Jane Kahn, Attorney, Rosen, Bien, and Galvan
Robin Dezember, CDCR, Chief Deputy Secretary
Susan Kole, San Mateo County, Manager
Rick Haywood, San Mateo County, Manager
Lynn Maddock, Monterey County Behavioral Health, Forensic Team Supervisor
Ariel L. Troncoso, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, MD – Forensic Psychiatry
Roberta English, NAMI, Marin County
Jean Mariani, San Francisco Sheriff's Department
Kevin Smith, Orange County Health Care Agency/BHS
Sheryl Curl, Orange County Health Care/CMH, Administrative Manager
Dana Garel, Eli Lilly and Company, Sr. Public Affairs Liaison
Cynthia Soruco, Orange County Health Care/CMH
Robert Hart, San Joaquin County BHS, Medical Director
Robert Jackson, Monterey County Mental Health
Ken Carabello, Forensic Mental Health Association of California (President)
James Telander, CDCR-DJJ, Chief Psych.
Jasmine Depovic, Orange County Health Department/MD
Betty Sutton, CDCR, Chief Psychologist
Shawn Rowland, Contra Costa County, MIOCR Project
Sharon Roth, San Mateo County, NAMI, RN
Jim Kenshalo, Contra Costa County, CSW
Ebtesam Khaled, Orange County, MD
Rachez Scherer, MHA in California, Senior Legal Analyst

Absent:

Council Member James W. Sweeney, J.D., Principal, James W. Sweeney & Associates and support staff member
Bruce Slavin, Chief of Legal Policy - CDCR

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Opening Comments/Previous Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Tilton called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m., roll was taken, and a quorum was present. Guests were welcomed and introductions were made.

Duane McWaine moved and Charlie Walters seconded that the minutes of the last meeting held on January 17, 2008 at the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco be approved. The motion was passed.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – COMIO 2008 Best Practices Awards

The Best Practices Committee composed of David Lehman, Duane McWaine and David Meyer had reported their recommendations to the entire Council for review and approval in January. To make the decision official for the minutes, a motion was offered by Vice-Chairperson Mayberg and seconded by Jo Robinson to recognize the 2008 COMIO Best Practices Recipients.

The five programs are:

- 1) Behavioral Health Court, San Francisco Superior Court (Adult Category)
- 2) Co-Occurring Disorder Court, Orange County Superior Court (Adult Category)
- 3) Mental Health Treatment Court, Santa Clara County Superior Court (Adult Category)
- 4) Client Assessment Recommendation Evaluation Project – C.A.R.E. – Los Angeles County Public Defender (Juvenile Category)
- 5) Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents – CITA – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Juvenile Delinquency Division (Juvenile Category)

The motion passed unanimously. Chairperson Tilton will make the award presentations at an evening ceremony this evening as part of the California Forensic Mental Health Association's Annual Conference preceding the keynote speaker. Impressive award plaques were produced by the CDCR vocational training program at Susanville, and a press release has been prepared by CDCR which appears on the CDCR website with a link to the COMIO website where there is a description of each project.

Executive Officer Lammers requested that Council Members provide input and suggestions for the 2009 Best Practices application forms that will be released mid-year. Regarding previous winners, it was suggested that they not be precluded from applying if they have significantly expanded or changed the scope of the project. It was suggested that the application form should encourage more details on partnerships, sources of funding (local, state, federal, & foundation or private) as well as a greater emphasis on the details of successful outcomes and evaluation experience.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Legislation & General Discussion of Issues

Chairperson Tilton stated that we need to better bridge mental health services and management issues as part of the re-entry process since this is such a high-risk population. He said CDCR is working on an RFI to determine if re-entry commitment can occur in communities outside of a jail building. He observed that the most common challenges are a lack of community services along with the politics surrounding NIMBY and that the reentry success will only be as good as the connectivity effectiveness in each community. In addition, CDCR is ready to sign with San Francisco, San Diego, and Santa Clara for use of existing facilities to open this year and some others to develop new reentry facilities. We need to have transitional funding for at least 30 days to go along with enhanced supervision. We are working on selling both staff and inmates regarding the importance of programming. Also, CDCR has just validated a risk assessment tool based on 100,000 inmates to determine the risk of re-offending.

Dave Meyer discussed AB14. He mentioned that it codifies current practices and restricts parts of Laura's law, e.g., assisted involuntary treatment in the community. Only Nevada County is doing Laura's Law presently.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Competency To Stand Trial Checklist & Strategy

Judge Lindley congratulated Dave Meyer on his work on the competency to stand trial checklist. Dave Meyer suggested that a better strategy for getting this done is to probably not work through the legislature but have discussions with the AOC and the courts. Chairperson Tilton offered to discuss this with Judge Manley from Santa Clara County.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Merit of COMIO Initiating *Facilities Needs Survey*

Dave Lehman mentioned that this issue has been floating for too long and we need to ask CSA to take a look at developing the development of intake and release guidelines including medication follow-through and to determine space and programming allocations for mentally ill offenders. He suggested that the entire area be included as part of the CSA's review of juvenile and adult standards which happens about every two–three years. This might have broader implications as to the process of involuntary medications, which is now being done by Los Angeles and Santa Clara. Chairman Tilton stated that he would ask CSA Director Scott Harris to add this topic to the next CSA agenda, which is in May.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Proposed Expansion of COMIO Website Functions

Charlie Walters has previously proposed that the COMIO website be enhanced by the use of podcasts and has offered Orange County's IT assistance to the IT people at CDCR. He would like to be able to do a mock-up with input from members who have video material that could be packaged together for a demo to the Council. Joel Fay suggested that incorporating CIT training 5-minute updates might be a goal to consider. Also Prop 63 training updates could be a possibility. Dave Lehman suggested that the Humboldt County Horizon program for juvenile justice mental health would be an interesting addition as well.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

Dave Meyer reminded the Council members that each should take advantage of the early invitations to register for the Words To Deeds Conference scheduled for July 25th at the Sierra Health Foundation in Sacramento. CDCR Under-Secretary Kathy Jett added that an important topic for this conference is to discuss how we address gaps in the system for transitioning and reentry and then how do we validate effectiveness for the community.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – NEW BUSINESS

Dave Lehman suggested COMIO send a letter to Senator Perata regarding the Best Practices Awards since he was the original author of the legislation creating COMIO.

ADJOURNMENT -

Motion was made by Dr. Mayberg and seconded by Jo Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in Sacramento at CDCR Headquarters on Thursday May 8, 2008.

MINUTES RECORDED AND SUBMITTED BY:

Allan Lammers,
Executive Officer, COMIO